

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A meat flavoured foodstuff comprising, in an amount of 0.01 to 1000 ppb, a combination of an effective flavour-imparting or flavour-reinforcing amount of (a) at least one compound with a (hydrogenated) 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio moiety and a hydrogen atom, an -S-CH₃ group, an -CO-CH₃ group or a 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio moiety and (b) at least one compound having the structure



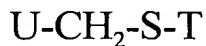
in which C, H and S have the conventional meanings of carbon, hydrogen and sulphur atoms respectively, U represents a thiol group, a lower thioacyl group, a lower thioalkyl group, a hydroxyl group or a 2-methyl-3-furyldithio group and T represents a hydrogen atom, a lower acyl group or a 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio group or a -S-CH₂-U group as defined above.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A meat flavoured foodstuff according to claim 1, wherein lower thioacyl- and lower acyl group means that these groups comprise from 2 to carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A meat flavoured foodstuff according to claim 1 or 2, wherein U represents a lower thioacyl group and T represents a lower acyl group.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A meat flavoured foodstuff according to claim 1 or 2, wherein lower thioacyl group means thioacetoxy and lower acyl group independently means acetyl.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A process for imparting a savoury flavour to a foodstuff comprising incorporating in said foodstuff, in an amount of 0.01 to 1000 ppb, a combination of an effective amount of at least one compound with a (hydrogenated) 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio moiety and a hydrogen atom, an -S-CH₃ group, an -CO-CH₃ group or a 2-methyl-3-furyl- moiety and an effective amount of at least one compound having the structure

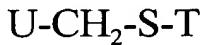


in which C, H and S have the conventional meanings of carbon, hydrogen and sulphur atoms respectively, U represents a thiol group, a lower thioacyl group, a lower thioalkyl group, a hydroxyl group or a 2-methyl-3-furyldithio group and T represents a hydrogen atom, a lower acyl group or a 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio group or a -S-CH₂-U group as defined above.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A process to claim 5, in which lower thioacyl-, lower alkyl- and lower acyl group means that these groups comprise from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 7 (original): A process according to claim 5 or 6 in which U represents a lower thioacyl group or a lower acyloxy group and T represents a lower acyl group.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A flavouring composition for foodstuffs comprising at least one compound comprising a (hydrogenated) 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio moiety and a hydrogen atom, an -S-CH₃ group, an -CO-CH₃ group or a 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio moiety, in an amount of at least 0.1 ppb, and at least one compound having the structure



in which C, H and S have the conventional meanings of carbon, hydrogen and sulphur atoms respectively, U represents a thiol group, a lower thioacyl group, a hydroxyl group or a 2-

methyl-3-furyldithio group and T represents a hydrogen atom, a lower acyl group or a lower acyl group, in an amount of at least 0.1 ppb.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A composition according to claim 8, in which lower thioacyl-, lower alkyl- and lower acyl group means that these groups comprise from 2 to carbon atoms.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A foodstuff having a meat flavor, said flavor having been imparted by incorporating therein, in an amount of 0.01 to 1000 ppb, a combination of an amount of at least one compound with a (hydrogenated) 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio moiety and a hydrogen atom, an -S-CH₃ group, an -CO-CH₃ group or a (hydrogenated) 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio group and, an amount of at least one compound having the structure



in which C, H and S have the conventional meanings of carbon, hydrogen and sulphur atoms respectively, U represents a thiol group, a lower thioacyl group, a lower thioalkyl group, a hydroxyl group or a (hydrogenated) 2-methyl-3-furyldithio group and T represents a hydrogen atom, a lower acyl group or a (hydrogenated) 2-methyl-3-furyl-thio group or a -S-CH₂-U group as defined above, sufficient to impart said meat flavor.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A process for preparing a pure compound with at least one free thiol group as defined in claim 1 by hydrolyzing the corresponding thioacyl compound in the presence of an enzyme or a cation exchange resin.

Claim 12 (original): A process according to claim 11, in which the enzyme is a lipase.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A meat flavored foodstuff according to claim 2, wherein said lower thioacyl- and lower acyl group comprise 2 or 3 carbon atoms.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A meat flavored foodstuff according to claim 3, wherein lower thioacyl group means thioacetoxy and lower acyl group independently means acetyl.

Claim 15 (canceled): A meat flavored foodstuff according to claim 1, wherein flavor-imparting or flavor-reinforcing amount is from 0.01 to 1000 ppb on a weight basis.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A meat flavored foodstuff according to claim 1, wherein U represents a 2-methyl-3-furyldithio group.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A meat flavored foodstuff according to claim 1, wherein T represents a 2-methyl-3-furyl thio group.